

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 /103 W

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O R 250141Z NOV 76

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1102

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

CONFIDENTIAL USUN 5616

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, IN, BG

SUBJECT: CONSENSUS AGREEMENT ON FARAKKA ITEM AT UN

REF: (A) USUN 5544, (B) USUN 5554

1. SUMMARY. INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS ON NOVEMBER 24 CULMINATED IN CONSENSUS STATEMENT ON FARAKKA ITEM READ BY SPC CHAIR. BANGLADESH AND INDIA HAVE AGREED TO HAVE BI-LATERAL TALKS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN DACCA BEGINNING DECEMBER 6. BD WITHDREW ITS DRAFT RESOLUTION.
END SUMMARY.

2. REVERSING ITS PREVIOUS INSISTENCE ON HAVING UNGA RESOLUTION ON FARAKKA, BD DEL PROPOSED COMPROMISED LANGUAGE FOR A CONSENSUS STATEMENT DURING CONSULTATIONS NOVEMBER 24 MORNING. PRINCIPAL CHANGE WHICH BD SOUGHT IN PREVIOUS DRAFT CONSENSUS STATEMENT, WHICH INDIA HAD ACCEPTED PREVIOUS DAY WOULD HAVE HAD BOTH PARTIES AGREE TO KEEPING SYG INFORMED OF PROGRESS OF THEIR EFFORTS TO RESOLVE FARAKKA ISSUE, WITH SYG BEING CALLED UPON TO REPORT
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TO 32ND UNGA NEXT YEAR. BD DEL INFORMED US THAT

AUTHORIZATION TO AGREE TO CONSENSUS STATEMENT (RATHER THAN UNGA RESOLUTION) RESULTED FROM TELEPHONE EXCHANGES ON NOVEMBER 23 BETWEEN ADMIRAL KHAN AND GENERAL ZIA, AND ALSO BETWEEN FRONSEC TABARK HUSAIN AND BD PRESIDENT.

3. BD MISSION APPARENTLY CAME TO BELIEVE THAT A SUITABLE CONSESSUS STATEMENT WAS MORE DESIRABLE THAN A RESOLUTION ON WHICH THE "YES" VOTES WOULD PROBABLY BE OUTNUMBERED CONSIDERABLY BY ABSTENTIONS.

4. IN NOVEMBER 24 MORNING MEETING WITH INDIANS, AT WHICH REPS OF EGYPT, GUYANA, SRI LANKA AND SYRIA WERE ALSO PRESENT, BD DEL ALSO INDICATED THEY WOULD ACCEPT INDIAN PROPOSAL FOR BILATERAL TALKS IN DACCA BEGINNING DECEMBER 6, ON UNDERSTANDING THESE WOULD BE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

5. INDIAN UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT PROPOSED CALL ON SYG TO REPORT PROGRESS TO 32 ND UNGA STYMIED AGREED ON CONSENSUS AGREEMENT, AND BD DEL LET IT BE KNOWN THAT IT PLANNED TO TABLE REVISED DRAFT RESOLUTION AT SPC MEETING NOVEMBER 24 AFTERNOON. NEGOTIATIONS WERE RESUMED, HOWEVER, DURING EARLY AFTERNOON UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF THE SEVERAL ACTIVE NON-ALIGNED THIRD COUNTRIES. THIS RESULTED IN COMPROMISE FORMULA NOTING THAT EITHER OF THE PARTIES COULD BRING THE MATTER BACK TO UNGA IF IT FELT THAT WAS NECESSARY -- THUS ELIMINATING SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO SYG. WHEN SPC MEETING WAS FINALLY CONVENED AFTER MORE THAN TWO-HOUR DELAY, THE SYRIAN ACTING CHAIRMAN READ OUT THE CONSENSUS STATEMENT WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED UPON (SEPTEL).

6. BOTH ADMIRAL KHAN AND FONSEC MEHTA THANKED MISOFF FOR BRIEF STATEMENT TO SPC (SEPTEL) EXPRESSING OUR PLEASURE OVER AGREEMENT REFLECTED IN CONSENSUS STATEMENT.

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